

AGRICULTURE

Seven Important Considerations for Farmers.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

As there are many reasons for improved farming the following suggestions are offered.

I.

Every acre of cultivated land should be subsoiled to the depth of 15 inches every two years at least, thereby cultivating two acres, one on top of another instead of two by the side of each other, as this mode is cheaper to cultivate than the old way, and the manure put on one goes through both. In time of heavy or protracted rains the surplus water sinks to supply both instead of washing off the soil of either and in long or protracted drought moisture comes up and nourishes or sustains the crop through the roots that run down to the depth of the loosened earth.

II.

Wheat land thus prepared will double the crop the first year and be ready for clover, grass and pasture, or followed the same season by a late crop of corn and peas, and wheat or rye sown the last plowing, which should be done by a light cultivator or harrow so as to leave the surface smooth. Thus we have two crops and a third started in twelve months, and the peas turned under for another crop of wheat in November which would increase the next crop by turning under the peas before frost, or the peas gathered or mowed, making four crops a year and leaving the land in good plight for another crop of corn the next spring, and if manured broadcast a heavy crop might be had.

III.

The wheat, rye, oats or grasses sown after the other named crops, can be pastured all winter till March in Western North Carolina to the advantage of crops, land and animals, if taken off when the land is wet; sheep and calves do no harm but benefit all together.

IV.

As farm labor is becoming scarcer and dearer every year, the hold crops should be discontinued, except corn, and vegetables near market, the former raised by improved machinery and steam power, the latter by day laborers from the towns.

V.

As all meats are bringing good prices and must continue to do so for years to come, extra attention should be given to stock and poultry, the manure from which properly cared for, will pay for feeding and attending the animals and poultry, especially when green food can be furnished them all the year round.

VI.

Wool and mutton can be produced by this system of farming with greater ease and less cost than the raising of cotton and tobacco and the lands improved every year which would be equal to a bank account—all together would be more profitable than bank

stock or compound interest on money loaned.

VII.

All our rivers and creeks should be straightened and cleared of all rubbish so as to furnish navigation for flats, small boats and rafts, thereby obtaining cheaper transportation than mud-pikes over steep hills, especially in winter when most crops are marketed; and the rivers, creeks and swamp-lands of the East could be thus improved—all of which would greatly improve the health of the entire State, and make every kind of business more profitable.

JNO. F. FOARD.

Iredell Co., N. C.

Meeting of Cotton States Association of Commissioners of Agriculture.

It was our intention to publish last week a report of the fourth annual meeting of the Cotton States Association of Commissioners of Agriculture held in Nashville, Tenn., a few days ago, but it was crowded out. From the press accounts we condense the following report.

The Association was opened on Tuesday with an address by President S. L. Patterson, of North Carolina. He referred to the fact that the United States spends \$750,000 annually through its Department of Agriculture and the various States half that much. He said the work of the States should follow closely that of the United States and supplement the latter. He considered analysis of fertilizers as probably the most important State work, and thought the revenue from this source should be devoted to the development of the science and practice of agriculture. The State Departments should work to exterminate crop pests and diseases and that each State should have at least one entomologist in its employ. Live stock growing should be encouraged and the advantage of the section for growing forage crops should be impressed on farmers. He spoke of the great benefits derived from farmers' institutes, the advantages of issuing bulletins from headquarters and the gathering of crop statistics.

On Wednesday, in addition to the address of Mr. T. B. Parker published in last week's Progressive Farmer, two other important papers were read.

One of these was a paper on silk culture by L. B. Hagid, of Georgia. He said conditions were ripe and advantageous for the revival of the industry, especially in the South, and declared the United States should not stand still while her people were consuming over one-half of the silk production of the world, at an annual expenditure of \$75,000,000. The culture of silk was said to be more remunerative and less uncertain than the raising of cotton and Mr. Hagid urged that the attention of farmers be called to the industry.

The other address was that in which W. A. Orton, of the United States Department of Agriculture, discussed cotton wilt and cow pea wilt. The Associated Press report

follows: "He began by saying that when he began studying the matter four years ago, thousands of acres of cotton land had been rendered useless by the wilt. No remedy for the evil had been discovered, but he had found a 'resistant cotton,' when a field is ravaged and occasional stock is left standing, and it is the seed from this that produces the immune plant. The disease, he said, was characterized by the sudden wilting of the stalk. It first appears in spots and gradually spreads, the seed being permanently affected. The cause, he said, is a fungus in the soil that gains entrance to the plant through its roots, finally cutting off all sustenance. Experiments in the affected fields had produced the immune plants, but they had not gone far enough to ascertain how far the seed from such a plant will continue to produce immune growth. Until this matter is thoroughly understood the best thing for farmers to do is to plant other crops on the affected lands."

On Thursday Judge W. H. Tayloe, of Alabama, read a paper on the Torrens system of land registration and its effect on the value of country property. The speaker declared he would like to see the Association start a crusade against everything but fee simple titles. Entailing life estates and dowers should be abolished and the time to begin was now. With the question of titles once settled it would be easy to settle the question of land values. We hope that we can secure a copy of Judge Tayloe's speech for publication in The Progressive Farmer.

The Convention will meet next year in Montgomery, Alabama. The following officers were elected:

J. G. Lee, Louisiana, President; R. R. Poole, Alabama, First Vice-President; G. W. Koiner, Virginia, Second Vice-President; T. H. Paine, Tennessee, Treasurer; B. W. Kilgore, North Carolina, Secretary.

Before adjournment the Commissioners gave out their annual statement as to the cotton crop with average September conditions. The total estimate is for 9,713,394 bales, as compared with 9,952,762 bales ginned last year. The following table shows the estimate by States for this year and the yield last year:

State.	1902.	1901.
Georgia	1,000,000	1,401,651
Louisiana	700,000	858,000
Arkansas	950,000	736,740
Tennessee	241,000	209,186
Alabama	875,000	1,162,739
Texas	3,000,000	2,590,704
Mississippi	1,087,394	1,279,286
S. Carolina	775,000	730,603
N. Carolina	500,000	464,434
Oklahoma	200,000	149,415
I. Territory	300,000	280,000
Florida	50,000	57,198
All others	35,000	52,110

Mr. S. W. Laughlin has sold to Illinois parties a tract of 500 acres of land near Asheboro, known as the Davie Mount tract. They will establish a sheep ranch, we understand.—Asheboro Courier.

THE FARM CALENDAR.

What to Do in September on the Farm.

On the farm, in the orchard and garden, labor now brings a rich reward. And not only are the matured crops awaiting the harvester, but growing crops feel the quickening impulse of cool moist nights and in the early part of the month make rapid growth.

SEPTEMBER 1-10.

Gather and market peaches, plums, pears, late summer apples and early fall apples. See that the cider mills, cider and vinegar barrels and evaporators are ready for the windfalls and second-grade fruit. Harvest and market grapes. Celery, cabbage and cauliflower are growing rapidly and require attention with cultivator or hoe. See that the soil is stirred often and well. Celery wanted for very early use should be straightened up and the earth drawn to it with a hoe. Sow grass land with timothy and red top, if for pastures adding alsike, orchard grass, Kentucky blue grass and meadow foxtail to give a larger variety, maturing all through the following season. Continue fall plowing as fast as land is in condition. Begin to cut silage and fill silos.

SEPTEMBER 11-20.

Seed winter wheat and rye and continue grass seeding. Bank up early celery for half its height. Sow cauliflower, cabbage and lettuce for pricking out in coldframes to be wintered over. Seeds planted before the 10th are apt to produce plants which will run to seed when planted out in the spring. If planted later than the 20th, plants will often lack necessary vigor and strength. Shallots and onions should be planted and spinach sown, to be wintered over for spring use. Sow corn salad and chervil for winter salad. Harvest onions, beans, melons, cucumbers for pickles, potatoes and tomatoes. See that potato bins are in readiness to receive the crop. Get corn cribs in condition.

SEPTEMBER 21-30.

Cut rowan for second crop of hay. Finish banking up early celery. Harvest apples and late pears. Continue wheat and rye sowing. Watch tender flowering plants lest early frosts catch them unawares. See that they are protected, or if they are to be transferred to the house, take them up. Prepare coldframes. If you have none, build one or two for the early vegetables they will give you the following spring. Harvest pumpkins and squashes.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS.

Give the cattle and stock attention all through the month. Pasturage will probably be insufficient; see that it is supplemented with liberal feed. Fat is easily put on during the cool months of autumn, and for this reason cattle, hogs and poultry should be fed liberally. Arrange exhibits for your county fair. Look over buildings in preparation for the advent of cold weather. Build an ice house if you have not already. Prepare window-boxes and soil for them, for flower-folk are cheerful neighbors when frost has fettered a dreary landscape.—Country Life in America.